FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Garrison's Victory

The New Orleans conspiracy probe into the death of President Kennedy has temporarily ended with the three - judge decision that Clay Shaw, the No. 1 suspect, must be held for trial. In so ruling, the judges said that "sufficient evidence has been presented to establish probable cause that a crime has been committed. And further, that sufficient evidence has been presented to justify bringing into play the further steps of the criminal process against the arrestee, Clay L. Shaw."

The decision represents a resounding victory for New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison. The six-foot-six Garrison has his detractors and well-wishers, especially in the city of New Orleans which has been in the eye of his hurricane-like moves. But even the most hard-nosed critic of the district attorney must now concede that his investigation is not an adventure in headline-hunting. It has borne fruit, and if one believes Garrison's confident statements, it will bear more.

There are several aspects of the preliminary hearing that deserve comment. One is the sensational testimony of Perry Raymond Russo, the chief witness against Shaw. The fact that hypnosis figured heavily in his case against the former International Mart director will strike many as bizarre, even questionable from the standpoint of evidence. Yet, Russo's testimony has the ring of plausibility.

He was an unusual witness, true, but so was the final one, Vernon Bundy, the reformed drug addict who said he saw Oswald and Shaw in the Pontchartrain lakefront in 1963.

Russo and Bundy, it can be assumed, did not put the conspiracy picture together until the Garrisin inquiry turned up David Ferrie. Russo said he didn't contact Garrison until Ferrie was designated as a prime suspect. What prompted Bundy to come forward no one knows for sure, but if his testimony is accurate, the arrest of Shaw must have triggered his memory.

Bundy said he saw Shaw pass what looked like a wad of money to Oswald. As Russo had said before, Bundy described Oswald as dirty and Shaw as distinguished-looking and clean. The contrast in the two would appear so great that it is highly likely anyone would forget them.

Garrison has charged that the conspiracy in which Shaw, Ferrie, and Oswald participated actually culminated in the assassination of Kennedy in Dallas. But Russo, in his testimony at the preliminary hearing, said he didn't get the idea any specific time or place was considered, or that the three indicated they would actually participate in the ugly deed. At

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The Monroe News-Star
Monroe, La.

Date: 3-21-67
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Jack C. Gates
Title: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY 11-22-63
Character:
or
Classification: 89-
Submitting Office: N.O.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
MAR 23 1967
FBI — NEW ORLEANS

least no one at the meeting in Ferrie's apartment said, "I will pull the trigger and you have the plane ready for a getaway." The plot was worked out only along general terms, probably because Russo, an outsider, was there.

There are many gaps that need to be filled. Garrison has stated, in effect, that he will fill them. The whole affair is very intricate, he says. There will be other arrests, and his case will grow stronger thereby.

The public anxiously awaits a further unfolding of the district attorney's case. And all mystery lovers await the disclosure of the conspirators' motives. Why did they want to kill Kennedy? What insane notion drove them to assassinate the President of the United States.

The answer will be forthcoming in the trial of Shaw, to be sure. Thus far, we can only speculate as to the reasons behind the dark doings in New Orleans in 1963.